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410 Recd PCT/PTO 0 1 OCT 2001

MTS-3279US

PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Chiyoko Matsumi; Junji Yoshida; : Art Unit:

Masazumi Yamada; Yukio Kurano : Examiner:

Serial No.: To be assigned

Filed: Herewith

FOR: DATA PROCESSING SYSTEM,

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## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

## IN THE SPECIFICATION:

After the title and before the first paragraph, please insert - THIS APPLICATION IS A U.S. NATIONAL PHASE APPLICATION OF PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PCT/JP00/01928--.

Please enter the substitute specification as attached hereto. Also enclosed is marked-up copy of the substitute specification showing additions and deletions.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 8 with the following: